

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND INNOVATION DIVISION (EAID) FINAL REPORT SUMMARY

**Grant Title:** Pennsylvania Comprehensive Aquatic Resource Protection and Management Program Development Plan

**EPA Assistance #:** CD-96301301

**Report #:** Final Report Summary

**Report Date:** 7/22/2014

**Grantee's Contact Name and Phone number:** *David Goerman 717 772-5971*

**Federal Funding:** \$ 225,311.00

**Federal Funds Expended:** \$ 225,311.00

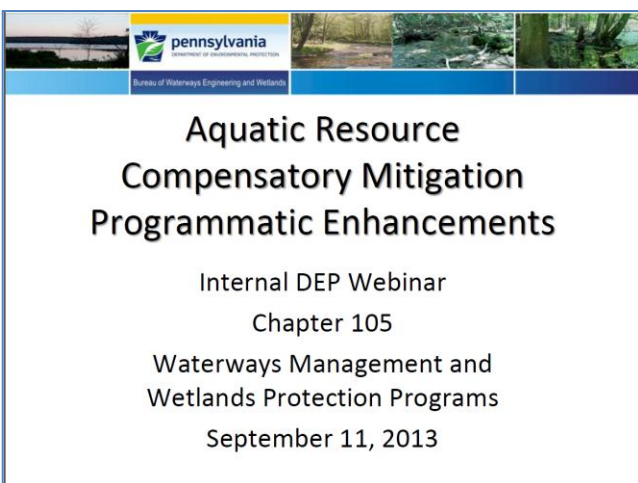
**Federal Funds Remaining:** \$ 0.00

### GOALS/OBJECTIVES:

Develop a new overarching **Pennsylvania Aquatic Resource Protection and Management Action Plan (PARPMAP)** to focus the Commonwealth's wetland program development efforts over the next 10 years. Three high priority specific action items that are within the **PARPMAP** have already been identified and will be conducted, developed or finalized as part of this project. The priority action items include training practitioners on function based compensation initiatives, finalizing Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Strategy and Developing a Headwaters Reference Population Strategy.

### PLANNED VS ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACHIEVED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS (MUST INCLUDE OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES):

- **PA Aquatic Resource Protection and Management Program Action Plan**
  - The action plan was completed and submitted to EPA for approval. EPA approved the action plan. PA DEP will be updating the plan in 2014-2015 timeframe and EPA will be provided a copy of the updates for review. Plan has been utilized by cooperating organizations as part of their wetland program development efforts and coordinated program development grant activities with the Department and the plan.
- **Outreach and Training: Regulated Community**
  - The delays associated with the protocol finalization continued beyond 2013. DEP however, did provide inter-departmental training, as appropriate, given the draft status and conducted outreach through professional conferences regularly attended by consultants.
    - Internal Outreach: DEP only webinars - Sept 11, 2013 and October 16, 2013; and October 29-31 DEP/CCD Annual Joint Chapters 102 and 105 Program Meeting.



- External Outreach: July 9<sup>th</sup> 2013 DEP Regulatory Counsel; July 12<sup>th</sup> PA FBC Staff Mtg.; October 3, 2013 PA DOT Environmental Managers Mtg.; and Mid-Atlantic Wetlands Workgroup Meeting November 12-14, 2013. Additional Commitments were made in 2013 for 2014 as well: PA Coal Assoc. Tech. Comm. April 17, 2014; South Central PA ASCE April 22, 2014; NY State Wetlands Conf. April 28-30, 2014; PA Env. Profs. Annual Conf. May 8-9, 2014; and VA Wetland Profs. Workshop May 16, 2014.
- **Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Strategy**
  - Revisions to the strategy are pending final approval at the Executive Level of the Draft Technical Guidance (Document No. 310-2137-002) Pennsylvania Wetland Condition Level 2 Rapid Assessment. The Final Draft Strategy is pending since it incorporates the technical guidance that is currently under public review and comment. Once the technical guidance is finalized, the draft strategy will be released.
  - Anticipate release of draft strategy by fall 2014 and possible final adoption in 2015. This is dependent on finalization of the previously mentioned technical guidance.
- **Headwater Reference Population Strategy**
  - Strategy finalization is pending final approval at the Executive Level of the Draft Technical Guidance (Document No. 310-2137-003) Pennsylvania Riverine Condition Level 2 Rapid Assessment. The Final Draft Strategy is pending since it incorporates technical guidance that is currently under public review and comment. Once the n technical guidance is finalized, the draft strategy can be released.
  - Anticipate release of draft strategy by fall 2014 and possible final adoption in 2015. This is dependent on finalization of the previously mentioned technical guidance.

## **QUALITY ASSURANCE PROJECT PLAN UPDATE:**

*Not applicable*

## **QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE:**

*Not applicable*

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

The Action Plan developed is a comprehensive and long reaching 10 year plan and is the most comprehensive effort the Commonwealth has employed since the inception of the wetlands program. The plan identifies past accomplishments and lays a framework and path for DEP program management in concert with EPA's program development guidelines. The program intends to maintain the 10 year plan outlook with periodic status reviews every 3 to 5 years based on need and progress.

The Wetland Monitoring and Assessment strategy incorporates the many changes made to the Level 1 and Level 2 wetland condition assessment protocols and parallels the regulatory program developments providing an assessment process that is seamless across the wetland program. This seamless approach will allow DEP to maximize its resources and information to address program challenges.

The Headwaters Reference Population Strategy will provide a path forward to assist in developing a better understanding of these critical aquatic resources and provide a basis for identifying research needs and ultimately program development needs.

## **EQUIPMENT:**

*Not applicable*

## **TRAVEL:**

*Not applicable*

## **AREAS OF CONCERN:**

The delay in finalizing the aquatic resource protocols developed under previous grant work resulted in significant delays in providing the final strategies. The Wetland and Headwaters Strategies refer to the current final draft aquatic resource condition assessment protocols and as such the submittal of the final deliverables will be delayed until the commitment at the Executive Level to finalize them is made in mid-2014. These final strategies will be submitted as soon as possible.

**RENEGOTIATED COMMITMENTS:**

*Not applicable*

**SUGGESTIONS FOR EPA PROJECT OFFICER:**

*Not applicable*

**RESOLUTION PLAN AND TIMING:**

*Not applicable*

**ACTION ITEMS:**

*Not applicable*

**TARGET COMPLETION DATE:**

*Not applicable*